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(54) Patient-worn energy delivery apparatus

Von einem Patienten tragbare Energieabgabevorrichtung

Dispositif de délivrance d'énergie porté par un patient

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] This invention relates generally to the treatment of heart defects by the administration of electrical therapy. More particularly, this invention relates to an energy-delivery apparatus for imparting the electrical therapy to the heart.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0002] Technology is available for correcting excessively slow heart rates (bradycardia) using implantable devices, commonly referred to as pacemakers, which deliver microjoule electrical pulses to a slowly beating heart in order to speed the heart rate up to an acceptable level. Also, it is well known to deliver high energy shocks (e.g., 180 to 360 joules) via external paddles applied to the chest wall in order to correct excessively fast heart rates, and prevent the possible fatal outcome of ventricular fibrillation or certain ventricular tachycardias. Bradycardia, ventricular fibrillation, and ventricular tachycardia are all electrical malfunctions (arrhythmias) of the heart. Each may lead to death within minutes unless corrected by the appropriate electrical stimulation.

[0003] One of the most deadly forms of heart arrhythmias is ventricular fibrillation, which occurs when the normal, regular electrical impulses are replaced by irregular and rapid impulses, causing the heart muscle to stop normal contractions and to begin to quiver. Normal blood flow ceases, and organ damage or death may result in minutes if normal heart contractions are not restored. Although frequently not noticeable to the victim, ventricular fibrillation is often preceded by ventricular tachycardia, which is a regular but fast rhythm of the heart. Because the victim has no noticeable warning of the impending fibrillation, death often occurs before the necessary medical assistance can arrive.

[0004] Because time delays in applying the corrective electrical treatment may result in death, implantable pacemakers and defibrillators have significantly improved the ability to treat these otherwise life threatening conditions. Being implanted within the patient, the device continuously monitors the patient's heart for treatable arrhythmias and when such is detected, the device applies corrective electrical pulses directly to the heart.

[0005] Normal heart function often can be restored to a person suffering ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia by a procedure known as cardioversion, the synchronized application of electric therapy to the heart muscle. Pacemakers and defibrillators that apply corrective electrical pulses externally to the patient's chest wall also are used to correct such life-threatening arrhythmias but suffer from a drawback insofar as it may

not be possible to apply the device in time during an acute arrhythmic emergency to save the patient's life. Such treatment is needed within a few minutes to be effective.

[0006] Consequently, when a patient is deemed at high risk of death from such arrhythmias, electrical devices often are implanted so as to be readily available when treatment is needed. Alternatively, such patients are kept in a hospital where corrective electrical therapy is generally close at hand. Long term hospitalization, however, is frequently impractical due to its high cost, or due to the need for patients to engage in normal daily activities.

[0007] There also are many patients susceptible to heart arrhythmias who are at temporary risk of sudden death. For example, patients who have suffered a myocardial infarction are at substantial risk of tachyarrhythmias for several weeks thereafter. Such patients generally are hospitalized but could be discharged earlier if there were a practical means to protect them from life threatening arrhythmias. Additionally, patients awaiting implantation of an automatic defibrillator may require an external defibrillator to be close at hand, in case they experience a life-threatening tachyarrhythmia. Furthermore, some patients who may benefit from an implantable defibrillator may face an inordinate risk from the surgery required for implanting such a device.

[0008] United States Patent No. 4,928,690 discloses a patient-worn energy delivery apparatus wherein a set of sensors is used to gather information as to the patient's condition. The conditioned signals are applied to a microprocessor for controlling a pacing circuit and a defibrillator circuit. When a treatable event is sensed, the microprocessor will initiate treatment as programmed in a system memory. Treatment modes and sequences may be individually personalized for each patient and may include low or high energy cardioversion/defibrillation, and a wide range of pacing modalities.

[0009] Furthermore, United States Patent No. 5,470,341 discloses an implantable pacemaker/cardioverter/defibrillator, wherein a microprocessor is linked to a control circuitry, thereby controlling operation of an output circuitry in order to generate biphasic cardioversion pulses.

[0010] It is evident from the above that there is a need for providing an effective means whereby susceptible patients can receive timely defibrillation or cardioversion without having to undergo an implant procedure and without having to remain hospitalized.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] This object is achieved by a patient-worn energy delivery apparatus as defined in claim 1. The dependent claims define advantageous and preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0012] The present invention provides for a patient-

worn energy delivery apparatus for imparting electrical therapy to the body of a patient responsive to an occurrence of a treatable condition. The apparatus includes a voltage converter for converting electrical energy from an initial voltage to a final voltage. Preferably, the energy is converted at a plurality of charging rates.

[0013] The energy delivery apparatus in accordance with the present invention also includes a defibrillator electrically coupled between the converter and the patient and the defibrillator has an energy reservoir for receiving the electrical energy. The defibrillator produces preshaped electrical pulses such as defibrillation pulses and cardioversion pulses. The defibrillator preferably includes at least one insulated gate bipolar transistor for applying the electrical energy to the patient.

[0014] The apparatus additionally includes an energy delivery controller electrically coupled to the patient and the converter and the defibrillator. The controller causes the converter to provide the electrical energy to the defibrillator at a specific charging rate in response to an energy level in the reservoir. The plurality of charging rates correspond with a plurality of duty cycles which correspond to a selected output voltage level.

[0015] In particular, the plurality of duty cycles may include three duty cycles, the first duty cycle being about 9% when the first stage output voltage level is less than about 20 volts, the second duty cycle being about 42% when the first stage output voltage level is equal to or greater than about 20 volts and the second stage output voltage level is less than about 35 volts, and the third duty cycle being about 69% when the second stage output is equal to or greater than about 135 volts.

[0016] The controller causes the defibrillator to apply a selectable portion of the electrical energy in the form of electrical pulses to the body of the patient in response to the occurrence of the treatable condition. Preferably, the preshaped electrical pulses are approximately exponentially-shaped pulses and may be monophasic or biphasic exponential pulses. The selectable portion is preferably determined by the controller using a minimum energy delivery period and a maximum energy delivery period.

[0017] The biphasic exponential pulses preferably have a positive-going pulse segment and a negative-going pulse segment and a selected amount of the electrical energy is applied to the patient during the positive-going pulse segment and a remaining amount of the electrical energy is applied to the patient during the negative-going pulse segment. Preferably, the selected amount of electrical energy is about 60% and the remaining amount of electrical energy is about 40%. The apparatus may include a H-bridge to produce the positive-going pulse segment and the negative-going pulse segment of each of the biphasic exponential signals.

[0018] The voltage converter includes an inductive-boost voltage generator having an output voltage level and the energy reservoir may include a plurality of capacitors being adapted to charge substantially in parallel

and discharge substantially in series. The inductive-boost voltage generator preferably has a first stage having a first stage output voltage and a second stage having a second stage output voltage and the first stage output voltage is regulated independently of the second stage output voltage. The first stage output voltage may be equal to or less than about 40 volts, and the second stage output voltage may be equal to or less than about 410 volts.

[0019] The controller and converter of the apparatus is preferably shut down in response to an overvoltage condition in either the first stage voltage output and second stage voltage output.

[0020] The defibrillator may further include a plurality of silicon controller rectifiers and opto-triacs and selected ones of the capacitors may be serially connected with other capacitors and respective ones of the silicon controlled rectifiers may be serially interposed between adjacent capacitors. Each of the silicon controlled rectifiers may be controllable with the opto-triacs which cause the silicon controlled rectifiers to conduct responsive to a therapy initiation command from the controller.

[0021] The apparatus may additionally include a plurality of electrodes interposed between the defibrillator and the patient and the plurality of electrodes have a conductive surface adapted for placement adjacent the patient's skin and an impedance reducing means contained therein for reducing the impedance between the plurality of electrodes and the patient's skin and the impedance reducing means are activated in response to the occurrence of the treatable condition.

[0022] The apparatus in accordance with the present invention may additionally include a source of electrical energy at a first voltage and a carrier means in the form of an upper body harness or garment to be worn by the patient to hold the plurality of electrodes.

[0023] A complete understanding of the invention will be obtained from the following description and the accompanying figures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0024] Figure 1 is an illustration of a patient-worn energy delivery apparatus according to the invention herein.

[0025] Figure 2 is a block diagram of one embodiment of the energy delivery apparatus according to the invention herein.

[0026] Figure 3 is a block diagram of a voltage converter according to the invention herein.

[0027] Figure 4 is a schematic diagram of one embodiment of the voltage converter of Figure 1.

[0028] Figure 5 is one embodiment of a monophasic defibrillator according to the invention herein.

[0029] Figure 6a and 6b are waveform diagrams for monophasic and biphasic defibrillator pulses, respectively, according to the invention herein.

[0030] Figure 7 is one embodiment of a biphasic de-

fibrillator according to the invention herein.

[0031] Figure 8 is the polarity-reversing H-bridge of the biphasic defibrillator shown in Figure 7.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

[0032] The invention herein provides a patient-worn energy delivery apparatus for imparting electrical energy to the body of the patient in response to the occurrence of a treatable cardiac condition. In Figure 1, energy delivery apparatus 2 is shown being used in conjunction with carrier means 4 in the form of an upper body harness or garment and a waist-worn holster 5 to be worn by patient 6. Apparatus 2 also can include monitoring means 8, internal to the chest garment, for continuously sensing the patient's heart condition. Signals 32, indicative of the patient's heart condition can be provided by monitoring means 8 to discrimination means 10 for determining the presence of a treatable cardiac condition. When such a condition exists, apparatus 2 can deliver electrical therapy in the form of preprogrammed electrical pulses to patient 6 using, for example, pulse electrodes 12a, 12b, preferably located anterior at the apex of the heart and posterior between the shoulders. The pulse electrodes 12a, 12b can have an impedance reducing means contained within. The impedance reducing means can be activated by apparatus 2, when the treatable condition is detected, to reduce the impedance between electrodes 12a, 12b and the patient's skin. This impedance may be monitored by the energy delivery apparatus 2 via lines PATIENT IMPEDANCE SENSE - HIGH, PATIENT IMPEDANCE SOURCE - HIGH, and PATIENT IMPEDANCE SENSE - LOW shown in Figure 5. These lines are collectively referred to as IMPEDANCE TEST which are intermediate the defibrillator module 22 and the energy delivery controller 24 as shown in Figure 2.

[0033] Apparatus 2 can be used in conjunction with the apparatus disclosed in United States Patent No. 4,928,690 and United States Patent No. 5,078,134, both to Heilman et al., which are both assigned to the assignee hereof. The apparatus may also include an electrical energy source 26 which can be, for example, a six volt rechargeable battery.

[0034] Figure 2 illustrates one embodiment of energy delivery apparatus 2 according to the invention herein. Apparatus 2 can include voltage converter 20, defibrillator 22, and energy delivery controller 24. Voltage converter 20 can receive electrical energy from battery 26 at an initial voltage and convert the energy using multiple selectable conversion rates to a final voltage. Defibrillator 22 is electrically coupled to converter 20 using energy reservoir 30 for receiving the electrical energy at the final voltage from converter 20. Using the energy stored in reservoir 30, defibrillator 22 produces preprogrammed electrical pulses which can be applied to a patient via, for example, patient therapy electrodes 12a, 12b. Defibrillator 22 can provide both defibrillation puls-

es which are generally asynchronous with respect to the cardiac electrical cycle, and cardioversion pulses, which are generally synchronized with the cardiac cycle. As used herein, "defibrillation" includes both defibrillation and cardioversion. Similarly, apparatus 2 can provide both defibrillation and cardioversion but will be referred to as a "defibrillator."

[0035] In general, controller 24 can respond to the occurrence of a treatable cardiac condition as determined by, for example, discrimination means 10, relative to cardiac signals 32 as measured by a plurality of sense electrodes 8. Controller 24 can include microcomputer 34, memory 36, and programmable logic device (PLD) 38.

[0036] Microcomputer 34 and memory 36 can monitor voltage converter 20 and defibrillator 22. The electrical therapy pulse energies which are deliverable to the patient can be programmable into memory 36. Microcomputer 34 can measure the pulse voltage 40 across electrodes 12a, 12b, and can also read signal 42 which is representative of pulse current, thus implementing real time energy control during electrical therapy pulse delivery. Microcomputer 34 additionally can monitor the voltage on reservoir 30 for overvoltage conditions and control pulse truncation during pulse delivery. In addition, microcomputer 34 can send a signal to patient therapy electrodes 12a, 12b to activate an impedance reducing means prior to the application of electrical therapy pulses.

[0037] The PLD 38 controls the defibrillator 22 based upon inputs from the microcomputer 34. The logic internal to the PLD is implemented to minimize unintended circuit operation. Logic interlocks can be included in PLD 38 to minimize noise, or malfunctions causing premature initiation or termination of charge or discharge operations. PLD 38 also can monitor therapy pulse duration so that the maximum pulse duration period is not exceeded and premature truncation of the electrical pulses is avoided.

[0038] Voltage converter 20 can convert the energy available from battery 26 at an initial voltage to a final voltage which can be used to effectively treat an arrhythmic condition. Converter 20 can have an inductive-boost voltage generator, which may be a two-stage voltage generator, that uses duty cycle control of the charging, or conversion rate. A slow charge rate may be enabled at the battery end-of-charge life, thus permitting a therapy pulse to be charged and delivered with low battery energy. Defibrillator 22 can perform the switching operations that permit the energy storage capacitors to be charged in parallel, and to be discharged in series to the patient therapy electrodes 12a, 12b. Converter 20 and defibrillator 22 can use a six-volt battery pack capable of a high-rate discharge, such as high-energy-density nickel-cadmium batteries.

[0039] In Figures 3 and 4, inductive boost voltage generator 44 converts the energy, received from battery 26, from an initial battery voltage, e.g. about 6 volts DC, to a final voltage suitable for use by defibrillator 22, e.g.

about 390V DC. A two-stage inductive-boost voltage generator can be used, although a one-stage boost circuit or configurations using a plurality of stages may also be used. First stage 46 boost generator increases the voltage of the energy input from battery 26, from the initial voltage to an intermediate voltage, for example, about 35V DC. Second stage boost generator 48 then increases this intermediate voltage to the final voltage that will be used by defibrillator 22 to deliver the electrical therapy. For cardioversion, the final voltage value can be any practical voltage desired; typically about 150V DC. For defibrillation, the final voltage value can be about 390V DC. Boost circuits 46, 48 can use power MOSFETs to charge their associated boost inductors. The first stage MOSFET 50 is selected to provide low drain resistance while matching the low-voltage, high-current requirements of this stage. The second-stage MOSFET 64, however, is selected for low-drain resistance at high voltage and low current operation. Where a one-stage inductive boost voltage generator is used to provide the charging voltage for energy reservoir 30, the generator may use a switching MOSFET having both a high voltage breakdown specification, while simultaneously exhibiting a low drain resistance.

[0040] Microcomputer 34 can generate a logic bit to enable the charging of boost circuits 46, 48. Control bit 62 can be received at PLD CONV RUN input 68 and is passed to data input 70 of control flip-flop 72. The MOSFET gate switching circuits of boost circuits 46, 48 can be turned on when the flip-flop 72 is clocked by trigger circuit 76.

[0041] The voltage from battery 26 is regulated to about 5 volts, V_{ref} , signal 80, which can be used by overvoltage latch 78. The distribution of V_{ref} , signal 80, is controlled by controller 24 by way of the ENABLE CHARGE signal 82 which activates power switch 84. Controller 24 uses signal 82 to enable a charge of the energy reservoir to occur. However, such charging is inhibited until a bit is clocked in from PLD CONV RUN input signal 68. When a charge command is received on signal 82 from controller 24, output voltage 88 of converter 20 is ramped up to the final voltage selected for the electrical therapy. Ramping can be controlled by varying the duty cycle of the MOSFETs stages 46 and 48 of the inductive boost voltage generator 44. The changing duty cycle controls the turn-on/off time of the switching MOSFETs.

[0042] A detailed embodiment of the voltage converter 20 is shown in Figure 4. In particular, first stage boost MOSFET 50, and second stage boost MOSFET 64, are two such switching MOSFETs. By adjusting the duty cycle of MOSFETs 50, 64 it is possible to avoid uncontrolled ratcheting of the current of the first stage boost inductor 52, and second stage boost inductor, 66. Trigger circuit 76 can be used to generate multiple rates to change the total time of the duty cycle during voltage ramp-up.

[0043] The duty cycle can be dependent on the level

of first stage output voltage 86 and second stage 48 output voltage 88. Control flip-flop 72 can decode three discrete conditions of the output level. When the first stage 46 boost output voltage 86 is less than about 20 volts, the on time for MOSFET 50 is set for a duty cycle of approximately 9 percent which remains in force until output voltage 86 reaches about 20 volts. This short duty cycle is desired to provide the capacitor bank with a controlled, smoothly-increasing charge voltage to limit charging current peaks, thus providing an initially gradual turn-on and smooth start-up.

[0044] When voltage 86 is equal to or greater than about 20 volts, and second stage 48 boost output voltage 88 is under about 135 volts, the duty cycle is increased by the trigger circuit 76 to about 42 percent. This significant increase in duty cycle shortens the inductor discharge time, allowing a faster build-up of second stage 48 boost output voltage 88. In this manner, voltage 88 approaches its final value more rapidly than during initial start-up.

[0045] When the second stage 48 boost voltage 88 is equal to or greater than about 135 volts, trigger circuit 76 increases the MOSFET duty cycle to about 69 percent, allowing a maximum build-up rate of second stage 48 boost output voltage 88 to, for example, 390 volts. Voltage outputs 86, 88 can be monitored using first stage boost voltage comparator 90, and second stage boost comparator 92, respectively. Outputs 96, 98 from comparators 90, 92 can be decoded by a down-counter 94 as a binary value. Counter 94 down-counts from this value to clear control flip-flop 72, turning off MOSFETs 50, 64 and allowing inductors 52, 66, respectively, to discharge. When a subsequent trigger pulse is received by counter 94 from trigger circuit 76, counter 94 again counts down from a particular decoded count so that the charge-discharge cycle is repeated. Control flip-flop 72 can consist of two D-type flip-flops 100, 102 each being associated with a particular boost stage 46, 48. First stage flip-flop 100 can be reset independently of second stage flip-flop 102 when the first stage 46 output voltage 86 exceeds about 35 volts. This can permit the first stage output 86 to regulate at about 35 volts without constantly resetting second stage output 88. This independence is desirable because, otherwise, second stage boost circuit 48 may discharge each time first stage boost circuit 46 resets to regulate output 86 to about 35 volts. This discharging action could increase the time for output 88 to achieve the desired voltage level.

[0046] First stage 46 output voltage 86 can be protected from exceeding 35 volts by turning off MOSFET 50 when output voltage 86 exceeds about 35 volts, thus terminating the charging of inductor 52. In general, inductor 52 is not charged until output voltage 86 drops below about 35 volts when MOSFET 50 is turned on. Second stage 48 boost output voltage 88 also can be monitored for overvoltage when charging the capacitor bank and defibrillator 22.

[0047] When overvoltage comparator 104 senses

that output voltage 88 is in the range of about 391 to about 402 volts DC, comparator 104 sets overvoltage latch 78. Latch 78, in turn, alerts controller 24 to the overvoltage condition by signal 106. Also latch 78 disables control bit 62, data bit 108 at control flip-flop 72, thus rendering boost circuits 46, 48 inoperative on the next pulse from trigger circuit 76. Latch 78 can stay set so long as unswitched 5 volt supply 110 is present and overvoltage reset line 112 from controller 24 is not activated.

[0048] Typically, controller 24 can discharge energy reservoir 30 when the latch 78 is set. In this embodiment, latch 78 can only be reset by removing battery 26, or by activation of signal 112 by controller 24. Therefore, converter 20 can be shut down independently of controller 24 in the event of an overvoltage condition on output 88. The nominal operating value for voltage 88 from converter 20 is typically between about 150 and about 390 volts.

[0049] The voltage across output terminals 88, 114 of converter 20 can be continuously monitored by controller 24 from initial startup to a fully-charged energy reservoir state. For this monitoring, a scaled voltage can be provided on CAP VOLTAGE signal 116. Voltage converter 20 can use control signals, namely PLD CONV RUN input 68 and ENABLE CHARGE signal 82, both of which can be active low signals. When PLD CONV RUN signal 68 is low, MOSFET 118 turns off and a logic high bit is applied to the data input 70 of controller flip-flop 72. This bit is clocked to the Q output 120 on the positive-going edge of trigger pulse 122 at a CLK input of each of flip-flops 100, 102, and is used to turn on MOSFETs 60 and 124 for charging the first and second stage boost inductors 52, 66, respectively. In the absence of the PLD CONV RUN data bit, inductors 52, 66 will not charge.

[0050] When ENABLE CHARGE signal 82 is low, transistor 126 is turned on, and the base of transistor 128 is forward-biased by resistors 130, 132. Resistor 134 and capacitor 136 provide a small delay in turning on transistor 126. This delay is desirable to provide time for the defibrillator charge relay 220 to close before converter 20 is turned on. A similar delay for relay turn-off can be generated by the PLD 38. After the specified delay time, transistor 128 passes the unswitched five volts to the circuits five-volt CONV LINE 138.

[0051] When the first stage 46 inductive-boost voltage generator is activated, the first stage MOSFET 50 is turned on and permits first stage boost inductor 52 to charge from battery 26.

[0052] Clock 140 generates a crystal-controlled frequency that can be used by the trigger circuit 76 and down counter 94 to control converter 20 to produce a slow initial build-up voltage followed by a more rapid build-up as output voltage 88 approaches the desired level. The basic clock frequency can be used to clock down counter 94. The resultant divided frequencies can then be used by trigger circuit 76 to clock control flip-flop 72 and enter the count for the down counter 94. The

firing rate of trigger circuit 76 can be selected by 20-volt comparator 146. When output 86 of first stage boost circuit 46 is less than about 20 volts, trigger circuit 76 can produce pulses at a first frequency F1 144 (F1 may be approximately 40 kHz). When the output voltage 86 is generally equal to or greater than about 20 volts, trigger circuit 76 produces a second frequency F2 148 which may about twice that of F1 (F2 may be approximately 80 kHz). Twenty-volt comparator 146 and 135-volt comparator 92 can change the binary count at counter 94. The output of comparator 92 also may be used to inhibit over voltage latch 78 when the voltage is less than 135 volts. Typically, trigger circuit 76 can load the preset count into down counter 94. The preset count can be decoded from the 20 and 135 volt comparators 146, 92, respectively, at the preset inputs of counter 94. Along with the loading of the count, trigger pulse clocks the data bit at flip-flops 100, 102 to their Q outputs. Counter 94 begins to count down from the preset count upon a low-to-high transition of the clock.

[0053] When the Q outputs of dual flip-flop 72 are set, boost circuits 46, 48 can charge their inductors 52, 66, respectively. When the Q outputs are cleared, inductors 52, 66, may be discharged. The D inputs 70 of flip-flop 72 are wire-ORed with the overvoltage latch 78 to shut down boost generators 46, 48 whenever output 88 of second stage boost generator 48 is in an over-voltage state. Under this condition, inputs 70 into flip-flop 72 are set low and the two Q outputs are set low on the next trigger circuit pulse.

[0054] SLOW CHARGE input 170 is available to converter 20 permitting converter 20 to operate at a substantially constant rate, thus reducing the required input current and increasing the battery run time. This permits charging and delivery of a therapy pulse to the patient as the battery nears the end of its charge. Comparator 90 resets flip-flop 100 whenever the first stage boost voltage 86 reaches about 35 volts. Flip-flop 100 is held in a reset state until voltage 86 drops slightly below about 35 volts, as determined by hysteresis which is implemented in comparator 90. By these means, the first stage 46 boost is regulated to about 35 volts. Diode 172 prevents the comparator output 96 from resetting second stage flip-flop 102, but allows counter 94 to clear both flip-flops 100, 102.

[0055] Overvoltage detector 105 can include overvoltage latch 78, overvoltage comparator 104 and overvoltage enable module 107. Overvoltage latch 78 can include timer 174 and reset transistor 176. When an overvoltage condition is detected in second stage boost output 88, a logic low is generated on the OVERVOLTAGE line 106. If converter 20 is in the start-up mode, the output of 135 volt comparator 92 is logic high, because the second stage 48 boost typically is not in an overvoltage condition at this point. Thus, during start-up, and up to an output voltage of 135 volts, the overvoltage latch is not activated. Timer 174 can be configured as a latch with its Q output 106 normally high. This Q state can be

changed by applying a logic low through signal 178 to reset device 174, which remains latched with its Q output set low. It is preferred that the latch state be removed by disconnecting the battery pack or the energy delivery controller 24 activating the OVERVOLTAGE RESET LINE 112. A low logic level on line 112 represents an overvoltage condition at output 88 of boost generator 48. Discharge output 180 of timer 174 can be used to set the input 70 of flip-flops 100, 102 to logic low to disable boost circuits 46, 48.

[0056] One embodiment of the defibrillator 22 in Figures 2 and 3 is described in the context of Figure 5. In general, the energy reservoir can be a capacitor bank which includes capacitors 201 through 205, each of which can be an 800 microfarad capacitor. It is preferred to charge the capacitor bank 201-205 in parallel and to switch 201-205 to a serial connection for therapy pulse delivery to a patient. The amount of energy stored on the parallel connected capacitors 201-205 is determined by the parameters stored in the controller memory 36. The maximum available stored energy can be determined by the level of the boost voltage 88 from the converter which is, in turn, controlled by an energy delivery controller, such as controller 24 in Figures 2 and 3. The delivered energy is continuously monitored by controller 24 using scaled voltage and current inputs developed by defibrillator 22. The energy delivered to the patient is also controlled by controller 24 independent of the pre-pulse inter-electrode impedance. The controller 24 accomplishes this task by truncating the width of the applied pulse at the appropriate time to supply the desired energy. Controller 24 considers substantially all circuit losses in calculating the delivered energy. Residual energy remaining in the capacitor bank 201-205, post-truncation, is not automatically removed. This energy, along with additional charging input from the converter, may be utilized for a subsequent therapy pulse during a given treatment sequence, should one become necessary. Optionally, residual charge remaining on the capacitor bank 201-205 after delivery of a therapy pulse may be removed by activating the test relay 221.

[0057] Controller 24 can be programmed to provide periodic maintenance charge-discharge cycles to "form" capacitors 201-205 in the energy storage bank during periods of device non-use.

[0058] When the ENABLE CHARGE signal 82 is asserted, thereby initiating a charge cycle, the charge relay 220 closes before the application of boost voltage from the converter, which occurs when the PLD CONV RUN input 68 is asserted. The capacitor bank 201-205 can allow an effective maximum energy storage of about 300 joules at 390 volts or a minimum of 35 joules at 132 volts. The higher energies can be used for unsynchronized defibrillation and the lower energies can be used for synchronized cardioversion.

[0059] The parallel charging path for capacitor bank 201-205 is through a series-parallel diode arrangement using diodes 210-217, and charge relay 220. This diode

arrangement can allow sharing of both current and voltage to minimize electrical strength on the components. During capacitor bank charging, opto-triacs 230-233 remain inactive, holding the discharge silicon controlled rectifiers (SCRs) 235-239 in the off or quiescent state. It is preferred that first capacitor 201 is not switched so as to provide a load for voltage converter output voltage. After capacitors 201-205 reach their desired charge level, an insulated gate bipolar transistor, (IGBT) 240 can be armed in preparation for delivering a therapy pulse to the patient. Capacitors 201-205 then can be switched into a series configuration to multiply the boost voltage to greater than about 650 volts, with a maximum multiplication to 1950 volts. Metal oxide varistor, (MOV), 242 or charge holding circuit 241 can present a high series resistance to capacitor discharge until the multiplied voltage of capacitors 201-205 surpasses the MOV 242 firing level.

[0060] IGBT 240 is enabled by first turning on the gate before the parallel-to-series switching of the capacitor bank 201-205 occurs. In this state, IGBT 240 is armed and waiting for the controller to initiate the shock pulse. Prior to receiving the shock pulse, IGBT 240 is not conducting high currents even though gate 245 is biased on. This is because the drain resistance in MOV circuit 241 is high, and capacitor bank 201-205 is still parallel-connected.

[0061] When controller 24 initiates a shock pulse via the OPTO TRIGGER line 262, capacitor bank 201-205 is switched to a series-connected state through silicon controlled rectifiers (SCRs) 235-239 and MOV circuit 241 is turned on by the rapidly rising voltage across capacitor bank 201-205. Typically, IGBT 240 turns on three to five times faster than SCRs 235-239. This places IGBT 240 well into conduction before MOV circuit 241 impedance drops sufficiently to allow maximum discharge current. Under this condition, the maximum drain-to-source voltage is below the breakdown voltage for IGBT 240.

[0062] The MOV circuit 241 can be used to allow the stored charge in capacitor bank 201-205 to reach a high potential before use as a shock pulse. The MOV circuit 241 isolates the patient from the remaining circuitry during charging of the capacitors.

[0063] IGBT gate 245 obtains its voltage from the first stage 46 boost voltage generator by way of 30V STORED line 250. This voltage can be regulated to the desired 20 volts by the gate drive circuit 257. As the bias is applied to gate 245, IGBT 240 is armed and ready to conduct the shock pulse. Controller 24 can command the truncation of the shock pulse to control the therapy pulse energy content, when controller 24 asserts the ARM TRUNCATE signal 251 to perform pulse truncation. When signal 251 is low, IGBT 240 is turned on to deliver the therapy pulse. When signal 251 goes logic high, IGBT 240 is turned off. This turns off or truncates the shock pulse.

[0064] Controller 24 can be programmed to monitor

the pulse voltage so that IGBT 240 is turned off when the voltage is lower than the breakdown voltage of IGBT 240, thereby avoiding device damage. Controller 24 can measure the energy of the applied pulse essentially in real time by monitoring the pulse voltage 222 and pulse current 224 levels. These measurements are made by using a precision voltage divider 252 and a precision current sense resistor using Kelvin contacts 254 to compensate for contact induced potentials. Controller 24 can use the measured quantities to calculate delivered energy and the truncation time for the shock pulse. Also from these parameters, abnormal conditions may be detected in order to terminate the shock pulse in an orderly manner. It is preferred that the shock pulse not be truncated when pulse voltage 222 is greater than the breakdown voltage of IGBT 240. This condition is monitored by controller 24 with input from precision voltage divider 252. In addition to prematurely truncated therapy pulses, an excessively long shock pulse can be prevented using the logic of PLD 38 (Figure 2) and a comparator, as well as controller 24, each of which can be made to immediately turn off IGBT 240 to truncate the pulse if the duration exceeds a specified time.

[0065] If an overvoltage condition should occur, converter 20 can shut down and controller 24 can command defibrillator 22 to close test relay 221 thus removing the charge from capacitor bank 201-205. During pulse delivery, each opto-triac 230-233 can be triggered momentarily when the OPTO TRIGGER signal is present. When OPTO TRIGGER signal 262 is sent, capacitors 201-205 are connected in series by SCRs 235-239 which are, in turn, each driven by a respective opto-triac. The emitters of opto-triacs 230-233 can be driven simultaneously by the logic of PLD 38, (Figure 2). Complete switching of capacitor bank 201-205 from the parallel configuration to the series configuration typically takes place in 200 microseconds or less.

[0066] One sequence of control signals from the initial charging to discharging of energy reservoir 30 can be as follows:

1. ENABLE CHARGE signal 82 becomes logic low which closes charge relay 220 before the application of the boost voltage to energy reservoir 30.
2. The PLD CONV RUN signal 68 drops to logic low which initiates the charging of energy reservoir 30 to a level precalculated by controller 24.
3. PLD CONV RUN signal 68 goes logic high which removes the boost charging voltage from energy reservoir 30.
4. The ENABLE CHARGE signal goes logic high which opens charge relay 220.
5. Both ENABLE SHOCK signal 270 and ARM TRUNCATE signal 251 drop to active logic low. Signals 270, 251 are independently-generated computer control signals which enable the application of the voltage across capacitor 274 to gate 245 of IGBT 240, thus arming IGBT 240 for a subsequent

therapy pulse application. The stored boost voltage can be regulated to about 20 volts by transistor 256 and diode 258.

6. OPTO TRIGGER signal 262 momentarily becomes logic high which triggers opto-triacs 230-233 to discharge capacitors using a serial connection. Signal 262 can be fixed at about 300 microseconds by a one-shot circuit. The therapy pulse can then be delivered through the patient, in series with IGBT 240.

7. ARM TRUNCATE signal 251 becomes logic high which turns off IGBT 240, providing a high-impedance path to the therapy shock pulse, or truncating it thus removing the pulse from the patient.

8. TEST LOAD signal 280 becomes logic high, which closes test relay 221 and removes residual charge from capacitors 201-205.

[0067] MOV circuit 241 can be designed to hold the series charge across capacitors 201-205 up to about 650 volts. As each of the SCRs 235-239 fires, the voltage across circuit 241 increases until device 242 conducts thus turning on SCR 239. Because the firing voltage is higher than the clamping voltage of MOV circuit 241, SCR 239 conducts and capacitors 201-205 discharge until truncated by the action of IGBT 240.

[0068] Typically, the electrical therapy pulses delivered to a patient are sinusoidal or trapezoidal in shape. However, the invention herein can provide electrical therapy pulses which have generally exponential waveforms. Such waveforms can be a monophasic exponential pulse as illustrated by waveform 300 in Figure 6a. A biphasic exponential pulse train also can be provided, as seen in waveform 302 in Figure 6b.

[0069] A truncated exponential biphasic waveform such as waveform 302 in Figure 6b can reduce the energy needed to perform efficient defibrillation inasmuch as biphasic waveforms have a lower defibrillation threshold than monophasic waveforms for defibrillation of humans. Energy reductions of up to 60% have been shown in some clinical studies through the use biphasic waveforms. Further, studies have also shown that biphasic waveforms provide an increased success rate over monophasic waveforms for the initial shock for conversion of induced ventricular arrhythmias.

[0070] The monophasic waveform 300 may be applied for approximately 8 milliseconds. The positive-going pulse segment 304 and the negative-going pulse segment 306 may each be applied for 4 milliseconds. Preferably, there is a transition period or off time of approximately 100 microseconds between each positive-going pulse segment 304 and each negative-going pulse segment 306 where no energy is delivered to the patient. As shown in Figure 6b, about 60% of the total pulse energy typically is delivered during the positive-going pulse segment 304 of the exponential pulse, with the remaining 40% being delivered during the negative-going pulse segment 306.

[0071] Controller 24 in Figure 2 may be programmed to allow either polarity to be used for the first phase of the pulse. Also, the percentage of the total energy delivered in each phase of the pulse can also be programmable. Multi-phasic embodiments may also be implemented. A truncated exponential waveform can be preferred over a damped sinusoid because the bulky inductors usually associated with a sinusoidal pulse delivery can be eliminated. Also, less energy may be required for successful defibrillation or cardioversion. This increased efficiency permits the use of smaller components with lower power dissipation thus providing a cardioverter/defibrillator that weighs less and is smaller than similarly functioning devices. Indeed, the weight and size reductions are such that the cardioverter/defibrillator according to the invention herein can be comfortably worn by the patient using a light weight upper body garment, supplying support for the sensing and therapy electrodes, and a waist belt with integral holster for the cardioverter/defibrillator.

[0072] Figure 7 illustrates one embodiment of a biphasic defibrillator circuit that can be used within defibrillator 22 in Figure 2. Referring to Figure 8, polarity reversal during delivery of the biphasic energy pulse can be accomplished by using an H-bridge having a plurality of IGBTs which can be triggered by a transformer with multiple secondary windings. The pulse delivery typically is disabled during the period when the H-bridge is reconfigured for polarity reversal because it is not desired that the H-bridge be switched while active, or "hot". In general, the proper H-bridge leg of the pulse delivery chain of semiconductor switches is turned on before the energy from the energy reservoir is switched to the bridge.

[0073] The biphasic defibrillation circuitry of Figure 7 can be similar to the circuitry for the monophasic defibrillator in Figure 5. Indeed, the charging circuitry for both the monophasic and biphasic devices can be the same. However, for a biphasic defibrillator, polarity reversal of the patient therapy pulse is effected by using an H-bridge circuit and a second bank of opto-switches for gating the pulse delivery SCRs for the second phase of the biphasic pulse.

[0074] In general, the operational sequence for the defibrillator of Figure 7 and Figure 8 can be as follows:

1. H-bridge 450 can be configured for the delivery of the desired first phase polarity and the IGBTs in that leg of the bridge can be turned on.
2. The selected first phase polarity of the pulse can be delivered by activating the first opto-trigger chain. Energy is typically allowed to flow for about 4 milliseconds.
3. After the first phase of the pulse is delivered, the pulse is truncated and then the energy flow is stopped for approximately 100 microseconds while H-bridge 450 is reconfigured for energy flow of an opposite polarity through the patient electrode 12a, 12b connections.

4. The second opto-trigger bank is fired, delivering the remaining energy to the patient.

[0075] Either leg of the H-bridge 450 may be selected as the first phase of the pulse depending upon which OPTO TRIGGER signal 424, 426 from controller 24 is activated. Thus allowing for either a positive or negative first phase. OPTO TRIGGER signals 424, 426 may be separate signals from the controller 24.

[0076] Assuming that it is desired for a positive-going first phase, IGBTs 452, 454, 456, 458 can be turned on. When OPTO TRIGGER line 426 is activated, opto-triacs 435-439 fire SCRs 440-443 and triac 444 connecting capacitors 401-405 in series delivering the first phase of the pulse to the patient. Upon completion of the first phase, transistor 452 is turned off, in response to a first control signal ARMTRUNCATE-a from controller 24, thereby truncating the pulse. At this time the other leg of H-bridge 450 is turned on, including IGBTs 462, 464, 468, 470. When the second bank of opto-triggers is activated by opto-trigger line 424, opto-triacs 430-434 fire, gating SCRs 440-443 and triac 444, thereby delivering the second negative-going phase of the pulse.

[0077] Upon completion of the second phase, IGBT 462 is turned off via a separate second ARMTRUNCATE-b signal from controller 24, thereby truncating the pulse. H-bridge 450 can be toggled via BRIDGE TOGGLE line 449 from controller 24 (not shown in Figure 2) between phases by pulsing the multi-secondary transformer, 448. The primary winding of transformer 448 is pulsed by amplifier 480 for positive going pulses and amplifier 482 for negative-going pulses. One of amplifiers 480, 482 is an inverter as shown in Figure 8.

[0078] In general, amplifiers 480, 482 are MOSFET drivers that are able to deliver high peak currents, for example, 1 to 3 amperes, into capacitive loads for short periods. Typically, the output of amplifier 480 is opposite in polarity to the output of amplifier 482 at any given time. That is, when one is high, the other is low. Amplifier 482 can derive its input from voltage doubler device 484 which increases battery voltage to approximately 12 volts across capacitor 486. Capacitor 486 can be used as a power supply for amplifiers 480, 482.

[0079] Capacitor 488 typically is in series with the output of amplifiers 480, 482 and the primary of transformer 488 and performs a dual role. First, it can isolate the outputs of amplifiers 480, 482 from each other minimizing the likelihood of electrical shorting. Secondly, it also can charge to the level of the output of amplifiers 480, 482. During the switching transition for H-bridge 450 by amplifiers 480, 482, the charge voltage of capacitor 488 can be added to the transition voltage of amplifiers 480, 482 applying up to about 20 volts to the primary of transformer 448. The resulting pulse energy developed across the secondaries of transformer 448 gate the IGBTs 452, 454, 456 and 458 or alternatively, 462, 464, 468 and 470 in the H-bridge 450 turning them on or off as desired. This configuration can maintain the gate

voltage on those IGBTs that are "on" for the required duration of the pulse phase.

[0080] While specific embodiments of practicing the invention have been described in detail, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various modifications and alternatives to those details could be developed in light of the overall teachings of the disclosure. Accordingly, the particular arrangements disclosed are meant to be illustrative only and not limiting to the scope of the invention which is to be given the full breadth of the following claims, and any and all embodiments thereof.

Claims

1. A patient-worn energy delivery apparatus (2) for imparting electrical therapy to the body of a patient (6) responsive to an occurrence of a treatable condition, the apparatus (2) comprising:
 - a. a voltage converter (20) for converting electrical energy from an initial voltage to a final voltage, the converter (20) converting the energy at a plurality of charging rates, the converter (20) including an inductive-boost generator (44) having an output voltage level;
 - b. a defibrillator (22) adapted to be electrically coupled between the converter (20) and the patient (6), the defibrillator (22) having an energy reservoir (30) for receiving the electrical energy at the plurality of charging rates from the converter (20), the defibrillator (22) producing preshaped electrical pulses therefrom, the electrical pulses being one of defibrillation pulses and cardioversion pulses; and
 - c. an energy delivery controller (24) adapted to be electrically coupled to the patient (6) and the converter (20) and the defibrillator (22), the controller (24) causing the converter (20) to provide the electrical energy to the defibrillator (22), the controller (24) causing the defibrillator (22) to apply a selectable portion of the electrical energy in the form of one of the defibrillation pulses and the cardioversion pulses to the body of the patient (6), responsive to the occurrence of the treatable condition.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the energy reservoir (30) includes a plurality of capacitors (201-205; 401-405), the plurality of capacitors being adapted to charge substantially in parallel and discharge substantially in series.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the preshaped electrical pulses are approximately exponentially-shaped pulses.
4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the preshaped electrical pulses are monophasic exponential pulses.
5. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the preshaped electrical pulses are biphasic exponential pulses.
6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the selectable portion is determined by the controller (24) using a voltage across the reservoir (30) and a voltage across the patient (6) and a pulse current.
7. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the selectable portion is determined by the controller (24) using a voltage across the reservoir (30) and a pulse current.
8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of charging rates corresponds with a respective one of a plurality of duty cycles; each of the plurality of duty cycles corresponding to a selected output voltage level.
9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the inductive-boost voltage generator (44) has a first stage (46) having a first stage output voltage and a second stage (48) having a second stage output voltage.
10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first stage output voltage is regulated independently of the second stage output voltage.
11. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the selectable portion is further determined by the controller (24) using a minimum energy delivery period and a maximum energy delivery period.
12. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first stage output voltage is equal to or less than about 40 volts, and the second stage output voltage is equal to or less than about 410 volts.
13. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein at least one of the controller (24) and the converter (20) is shut down responsive to an overvoltage condition in at least one of the first stage voltage output and the second stage voltage output.
14. The apparatus of claim 8 and claim 9 wherein the plurality of duty cycles includes three duty cycles, the first duty cycle being about 9% when the first stage output voltage level is less than about 20 volts, the second duty cycle being about 42% when the first stage output voltage level is equal to or greater than about 20 volts and the second stage output voltage level is less than about 35 volts, and the third duty cycle is about 69% when the second stage output is equal to or greater than about 135

volts.

15. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the controller (24) causing the converter (20) to provide the electrical energy to the defibrillator (22) at selected ones of the plurality of charging rates.

Patentansprüche

1. Von einem Patienten tragbare Energieabgabevorrichtung (2) zum Vermitteln einer elektrischen Therapie an den Körper eines Patienten (6) als Reaktion auf das Auftreten eines behandelbaren Zustands, wobei die Vorrichtung (2) umfasst:
 - a. einen Spannungswandler (20) zum Umwandeln elektrischer Energie von einer Anfangsspannung zu einer Endspannung, wobei der Wandler (20) die Energie mit einer Vielzahl von Laderaten umwandelt, wobei der Wandler (20) einen induktiv-verstärkenden Generator (44) aufweist, der einen Ausgangsspannungswert hat;
 - b. einen Defibrillator (22), der angepasst ist, um elektrisch zwischen den Wandler (20) und den Patienten (6) gekoppelt zu werden, wobei der Defibrillator (22) ein Energiereservoir (30) zum Aufnehmen von elektrischer Energie mit der Vielzahl von Laderaten vom Wandler (20) aufweist, wobei der Defibrillator (22) daraus vorgeformte elektrische Impulse erzeugt, wobei die elektrischen Impulse Defibrillationsimpulse oder Kardioversionsimpulse sind; und
 - c. einen Energieabgabe-Kontroller (24), der angepasst ist, um elektrisch zwischen den Patienten (6) und den Wandler (20) und den Defibrillator (22) gekoppelt zu werden, wobei der Kontroller (24) den Wandler (20) veranlasst, den Defibrillator (22) mit der elektrischen Energie zu versorgen, wobei der Kontroller (24) den Defibrillator (22) veranlasst, einen auswählbaren Anteil der elektrischen Energie in Form der Defibrillationsimpulse oder der Kardioversionsimpulse an den Körper des Patienten (6) anzulegen als Reaktion auf das Auftreten eines behandelbaren Zustands.
2. Vorrichtung Anspruch 1, wobei das Energiereservoir (30) eine Vielzahl von Kapazitäten (201-205; 401-405) umfasst, wobei die Vielzahl von Kapazitäten angepasst ist, um im Wesentlichen parallel geladen und im Wesentlichen in Reihe entladen zu werden.
3. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die vorgeformten elektrischen Impulse ungefähr exponentiell-geformte Impulse sind.

4. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 3, wobei die vorgeformten elektrischen Impulse monophasige exponentielle Impulse sind.
5. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 3, wobei die vorgeformten elektrischen Impulse biphasige exponentielle Impulse sind.
6. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei der auswählbare Anteil durch den Kontroller (24) unter Benutzung einer Spannung über dem Reservoir (30) und einer Spannung über den Patienten (6) und eines Impulsstroms bestimmt ist.
7. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 2, wobei der auswählbare Anteil vom Kontroller (24) unter Benutzung einer Spannung über dem Reservoir (30) und eines Pulsstroms bestimmt ist.
8. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei jede der Vielzahl von Laderaten jeweils einem einer Vielzahl von Tastgraden entspricht, wobei jeder der Vielzahl von Tastgraden einem ausgewählten Ausgangsspannungspegel entspricht.
9. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei der induktiv-verstärkende Spannungsgenerator (44) eine erste Stufe (46), die eine erste Stufenausgangsspannung aufweist, und eine zweite Stufe (48) besitzt, die eine zweite Stufenausgangsspannung aufweist.
10. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 9, wobei die erste Stufenausgangsspannung unabhängig von der zweiten Stufenausgangsspannung geregelt ist.
11. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 6, wobei der auswählbare Anteil ferner vom Kontroller (24) unter Benutzung einer minimalen Energieabgabeperiode und einer maximalen Energieabgabeperiode bestimmt ist.
12. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 9, wobei die erste Stufenausgangsspannung gleich oder weniger als etwa 40 Volt und die zweite Stufenausgangsspannung gleich oder weniger als etwa 410 Volt ist.
13. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 9, wobei wenigstens einer des Kontrollers (24) und des Wandlers (20) abgeschaltet ist als Reaktion auf eine Überspannungsbedingung bei wenigstens einer der ersten Stufenausgangsspannung und der zweiten Stufenausgangsspannung.
14. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 8 und 9, wobei die Vielzahl der Tastgrade drei Tastgrade umfasst, wobei der erste Tastgrad etwa 9% ist, wenn der erste Stufenausgangsspannungspegel weniger als etwa 20

Volt ist, der zweite Tastgrad etwa 42% ist, wenn der erste Stufenausgangsspannungspegel gleich oder größer als etwa 20 Volt und der zweite Stufenausgangsspannungspegel weniger als etwa 35 Volt ist, und der dritte Tastgrad etwa 69% ist, wenn der zweite Stufenausgang gleich oder größer als etwa 135 Volt ist.

15. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Controller (24) den Konverter (20) veranlasst, den Defibrillator (22) bei einer Ausgewählten aus der Vielzahl von Laderaten mit der elektrischen Energie zu versorgen.

Revendications

1. Dispositif de fourniture d'énergie (2) porté par un patient, destiné à administrer une thérapie électrique sur le corps d'un patient (6) en fonction de l'apparition d'un état pouvant être traité, le dispositif (2) comprenant:
 - (a) un convertisseur de tension (20) destiné à convertir de l'énergie électrique à partir d'une tension initiale vers une tension finale, le convertisseur (20) convertissant l'énergie en une pluralité de niveaux de charge, le convertisseur (20) comprenant un générateur élévateur inductif (44) présentant un niveau de tension de sortie ;
 - (b) un défibrillateur (22) adapté de manière à être couplé électriquement entre le convertisseur (20) et le patient (6), le défibrillateur (22) comportant un réservoir d'énergie (30) destiné à recevoir de l'énergie électrique avec la pluralité de niveaux de charge à partir du convertisseur (20), le défibrillateur (22) produisant des impulsions électriques préformées à partir de celui-ci, les impulsions électriques étant des impulsions de défibrillation ou des impulsions de cardioversion ; et
 - (c) une unité de commande de fourniture d'énergie (24) adaptée de manière à être couplée électriquement au patient (6), au convertisseur (20) et au défibrillateur (22), l'unité de commande (24) provoquant la fourniture par le convertisseur (20) d'énergie électrique au défibrillateur (22), l'unité de commande (24) provoquant l'application par le défibrillateur (22) d'une partie pouvant être sélectionnée de l'énergie électrique sous la forme de l'une des impulsions de défibrillation et des impulsions de cardioversion sur le corps du patient (6) en fonction de l'apparition d'un état pouvant être traité.
2. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le

réservoir d'énergie (30) comprend une pluralité de condensateurs (201 à 205 ; 401 à 405), la pluralité de condensateurs étant adaptée afin de se charger sensiblement en parallèle et se décharger sensiblement en série.

3. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, dans lequel les impulsions électriques préformées sont des impulsions de forme approximativement exponentielle.
4. Dispositif selon la revendication 3, dans lequel les impulsions électriques préformées sont des impulsions exponentielles monophasiques.
5. Dispositif selon la revendication 3, dans lequel les impulsions électriques préformées sont des impulsions exponentielles diphasiques.
6. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la partie pouvant être sélectionnée est déterminée par l'unité de commande (24) en utilisant une tension aux bornes du réservoir (30), une tension à travers le patient (6) et un courant d'impulsion.
7. Dispositif selon la revendication 2, dans lequel la partie pouvant être sélectionnée est déterminée par l'unité de commande (24) en utilisant une tension aux bornes du réservoir (30) et un courant d'impulsion.
8. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, dans lequel chacun de la pluralité des niveaux de charge correspond à l'un respectif d'une pluralité de cycles utiles, chacun de la pluralité de cycles utiles correspondant à un niveau de tension de sortie sélectionné.
9. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le générateur élévateur inductif de tension (44) comporte un premier étage (46) présentant une tension de sortie de premier étage et un second étage (48) présentant une tension de sortie de second étage.
10. Dispositif selon la revendication 9, dans lequel la tension de sortie de premier étage est régulée de manière indépendante de la tension de sortie de second étage.
11. Dispositif selon la revendication 6, dans lequel la partie pouvant être sélectionnée est, en outre, déterminée par l'unité de commande (24) en utilisant une période de fourniture d'énergie minimum et une période de fourniture d'énergie maximum.
12. Dispositif selon la revendication 9, dans lequel la tension de sortie de premier étage est inférieure ou égale à 40 volts environ et la tension de sortie de second étage est inférieure ou égale à 410 volts environ.

13. Dispositif selon la revendication 9, dans lequel au moins l'un de l'unité de commande (24) et du convertisseur (20) est désactivé en réponse à un état de surtension sur au moins l'une de la sortie de tension de premier étage et de la sortie de tension de second étage. 5
14. Dispositif selon la revendication 8 et la revendication 9, dans lequel la pluralité de cycles utiles comprend trois cycles utiles, le premier cycle utile étant de 9 % environ lorsque le niveau de tension de sortie de premier étage est inférieur à 20 volts environ, le deuxième cycle utile étant de 42 % environ lorsque le niveau de tension de sortie de premier étage est supérieur ou égal à 20 volts environ et le niveau de tension de sortie de second étage est inférieur à 35 volts environ et le troisième cycle utile est de 69 % environ lorsque la sortie de second étage est supérieure ou égale à 135 volts environ. 10 15 20
15. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'unité de commande (24) conduit le convertisseur (20) à fournir de l'énergie électrique au défibrillateur (22) à certains niveaux sélectionnés de la pluralité de niveaux de charge. 25

30

35

40

45

50

55

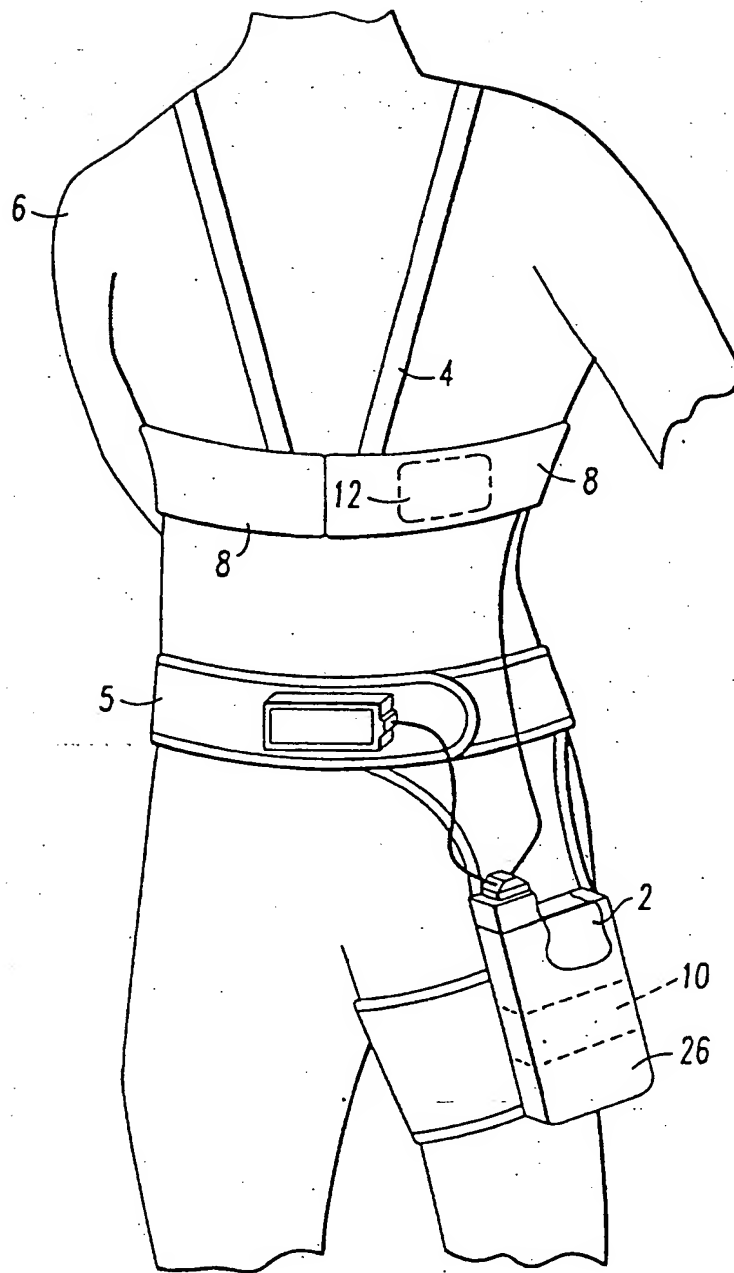


FIG. 1

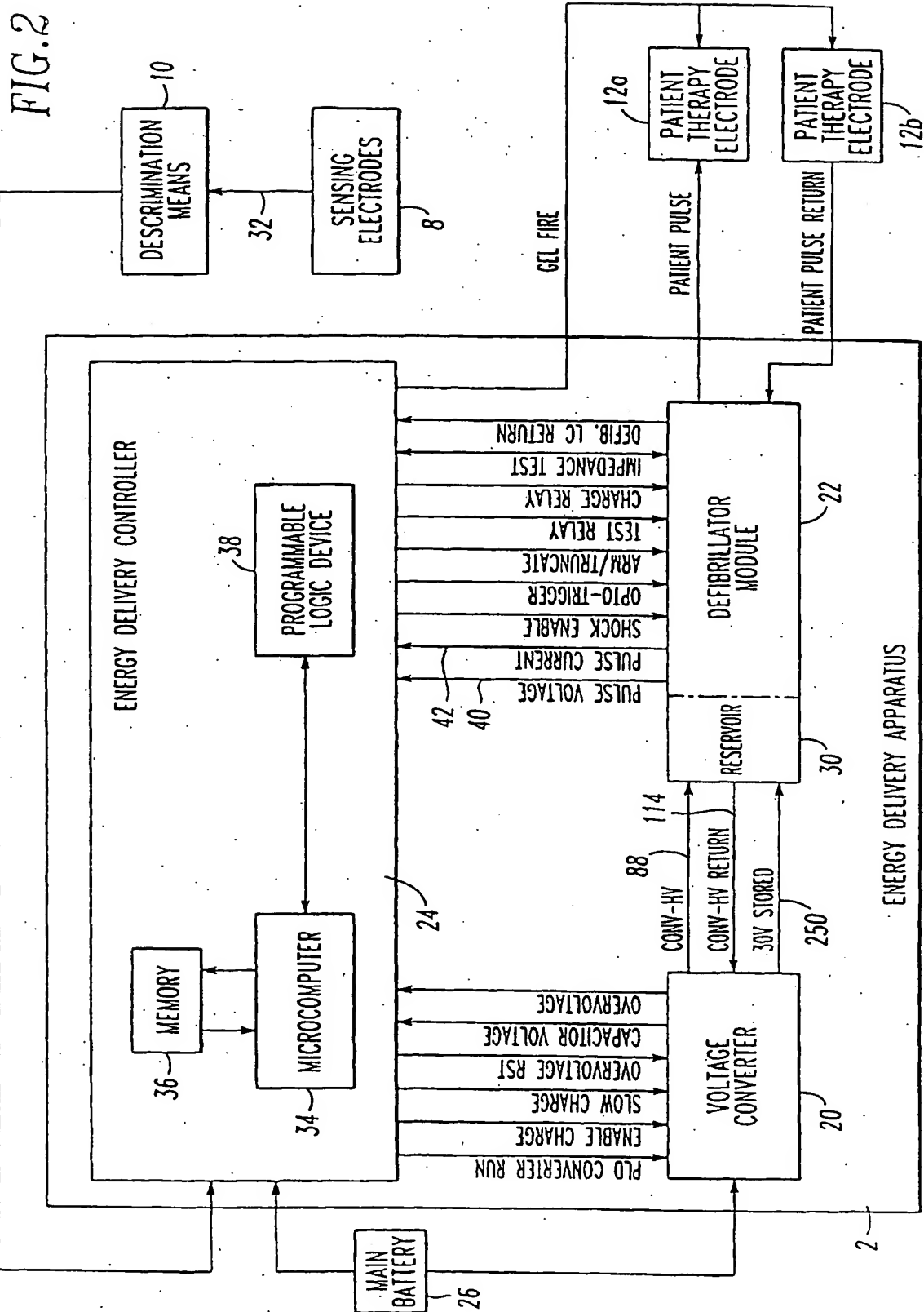


FIG. 3

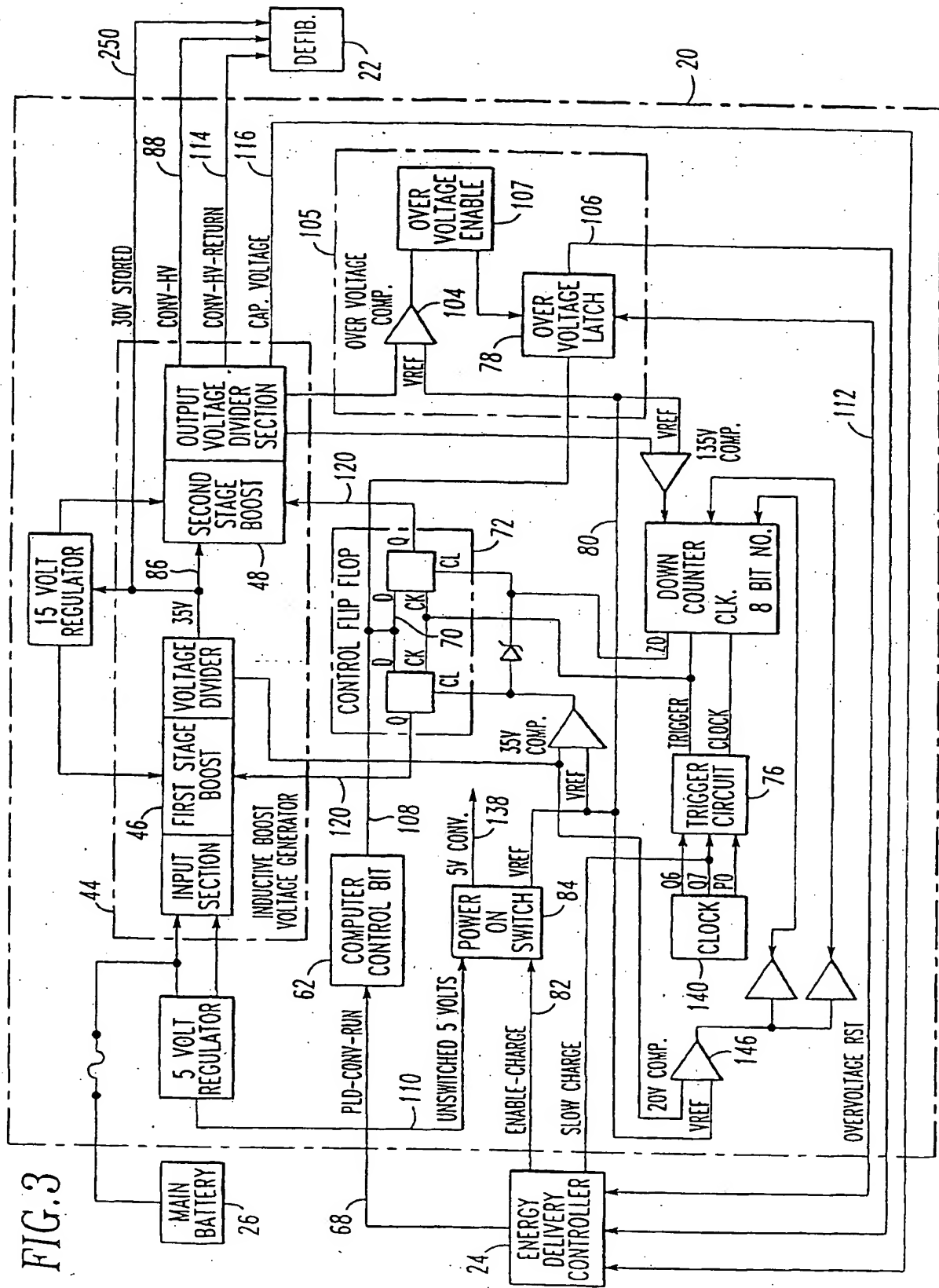


FIG. 4A

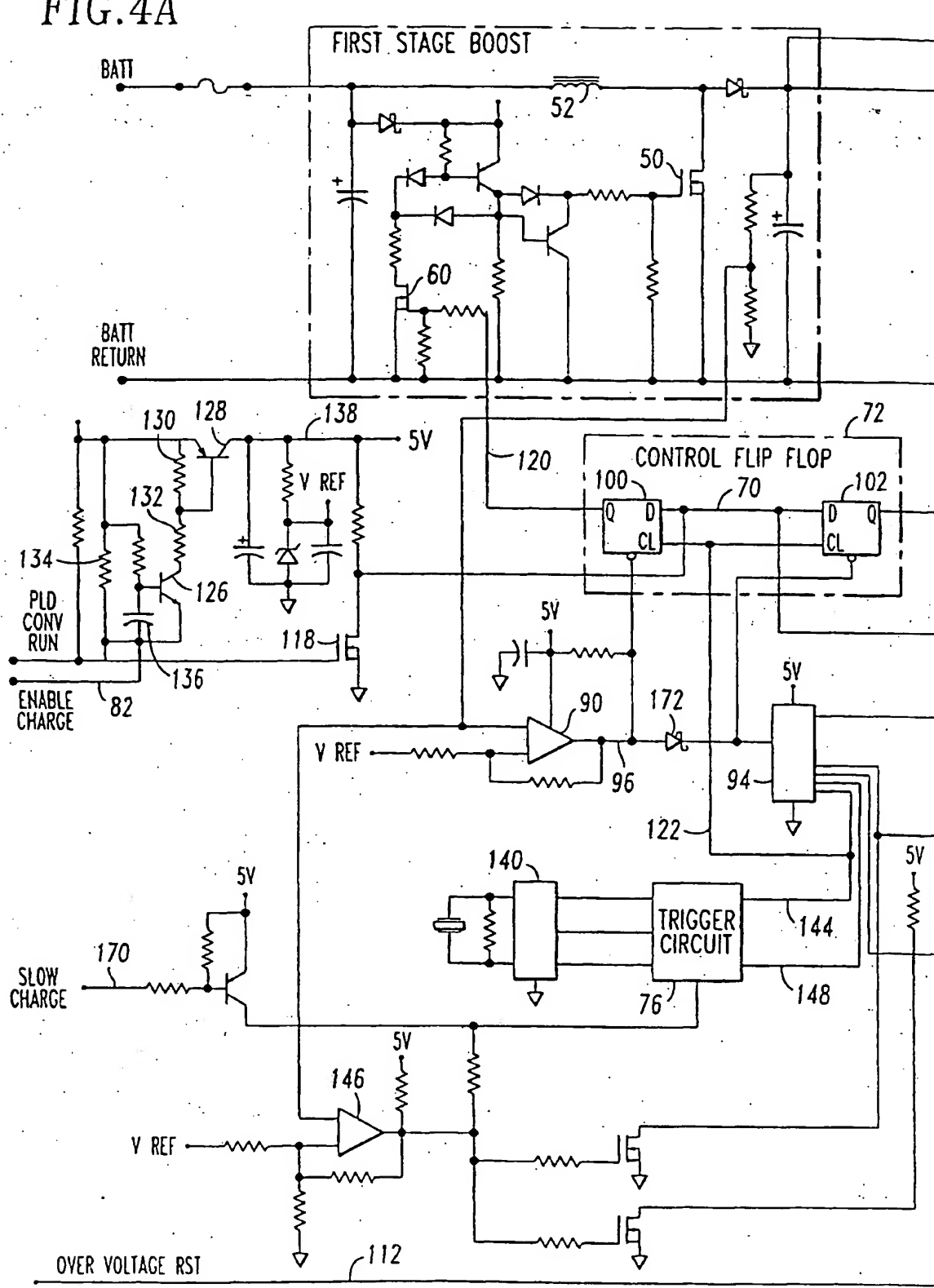
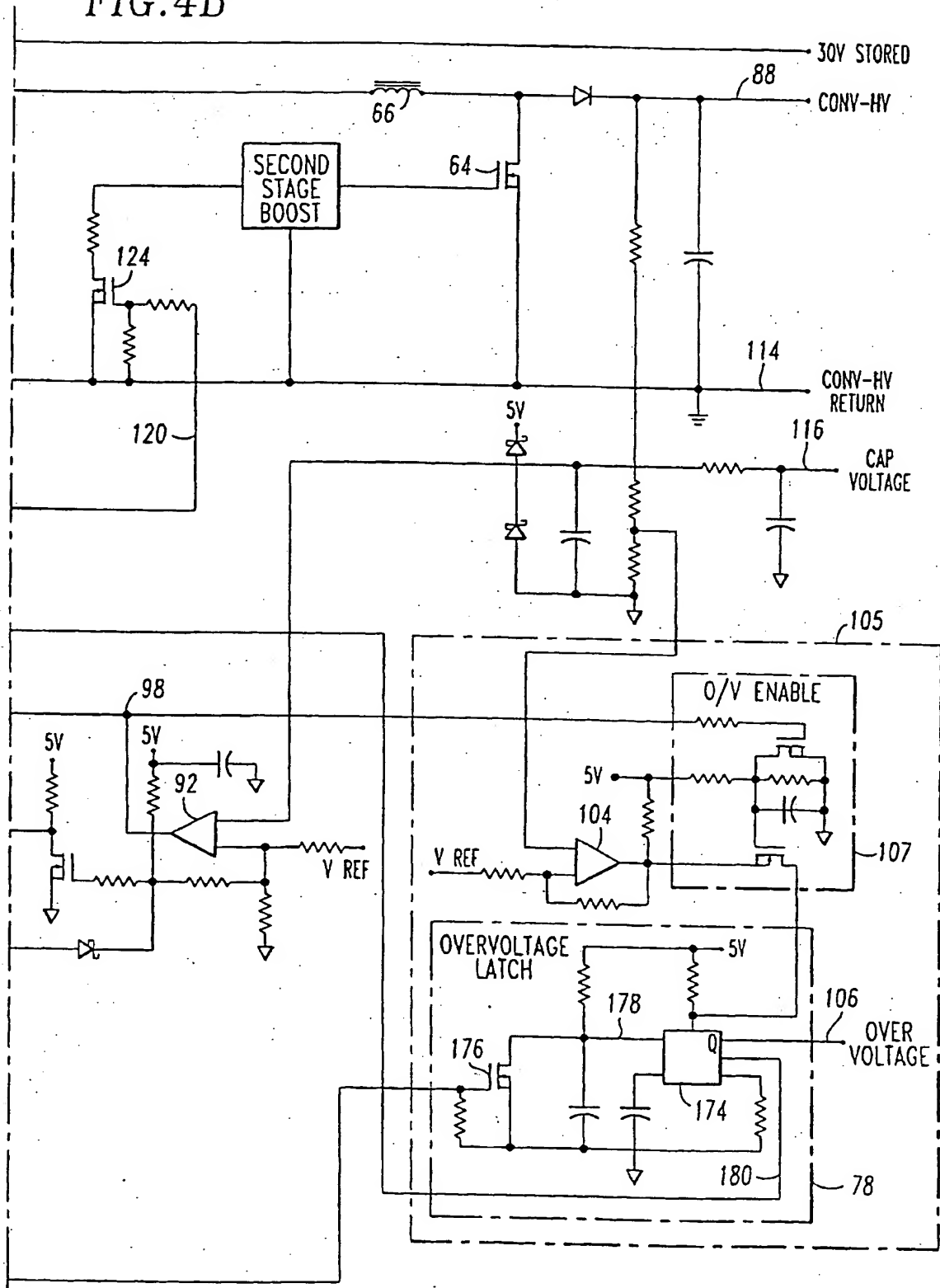


FIG. 4B



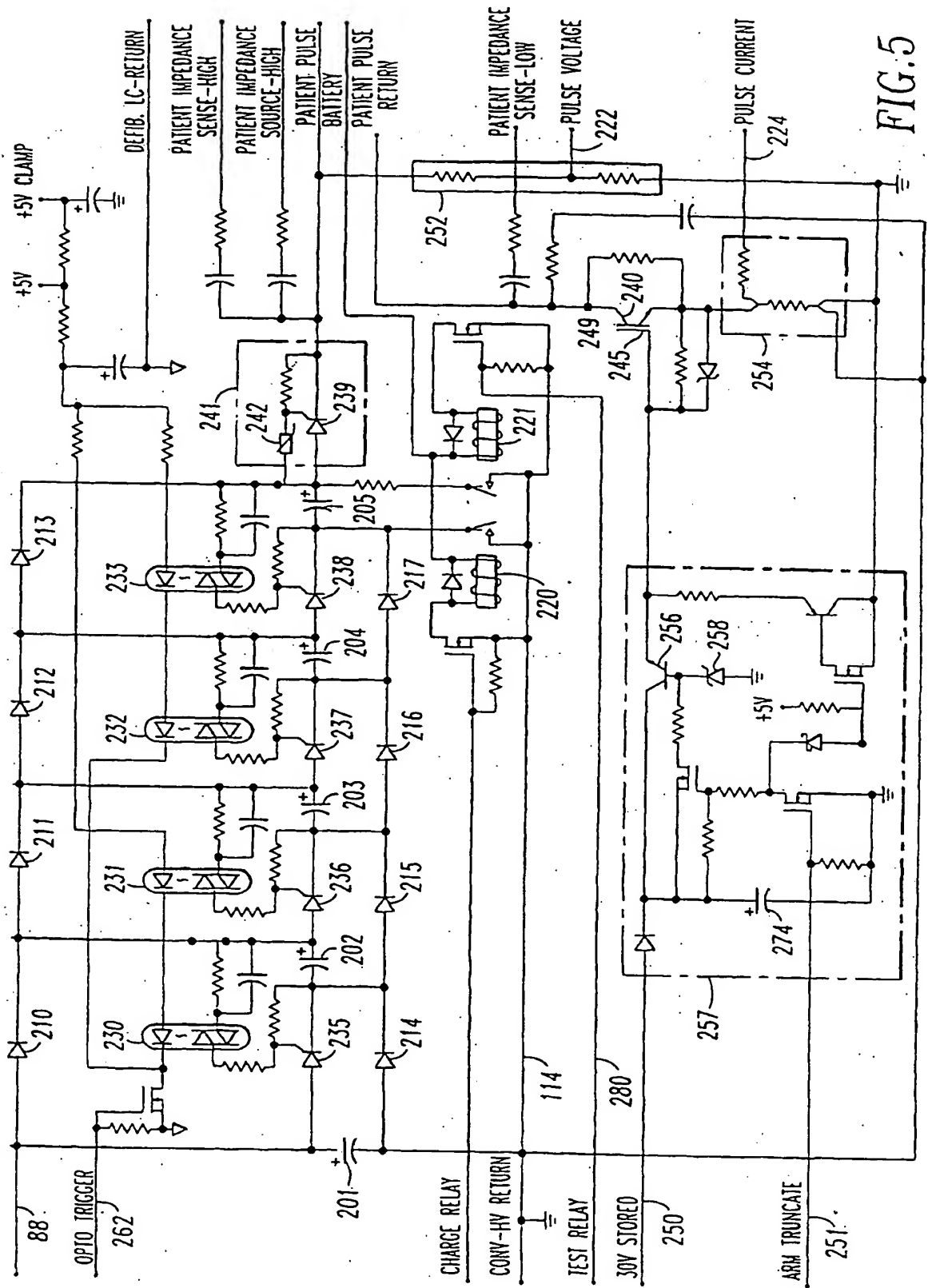


FIG. 5

FIG.6a

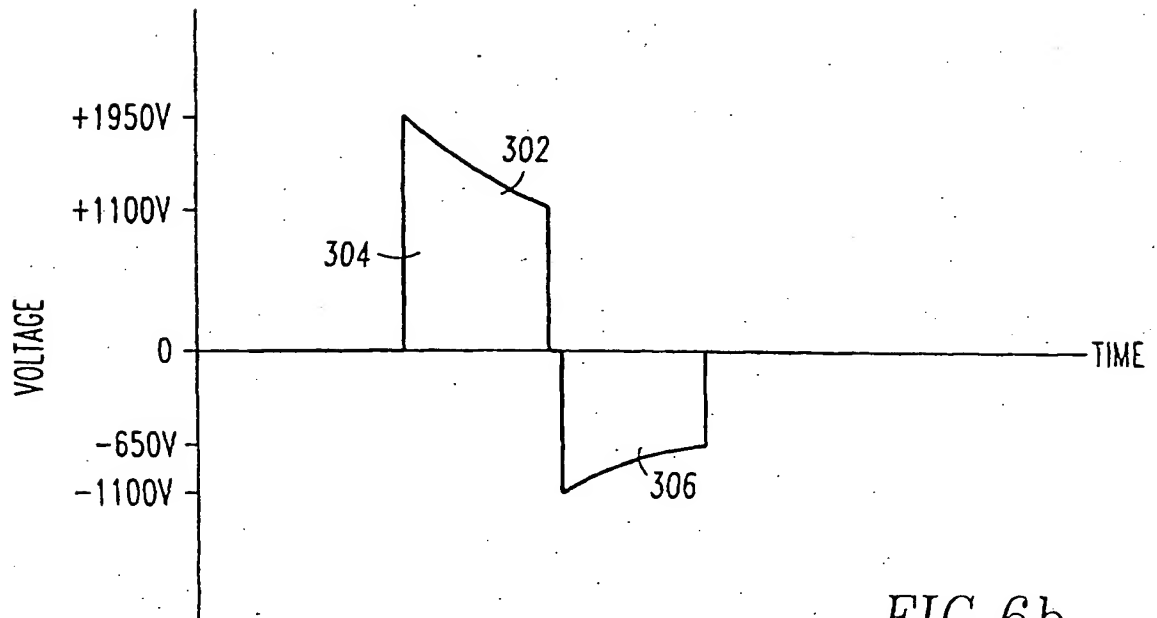
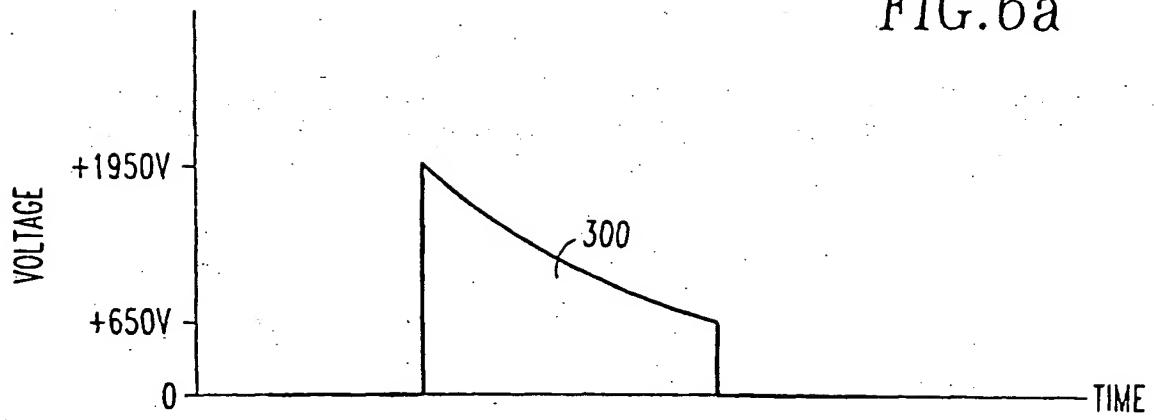


FIG.6b

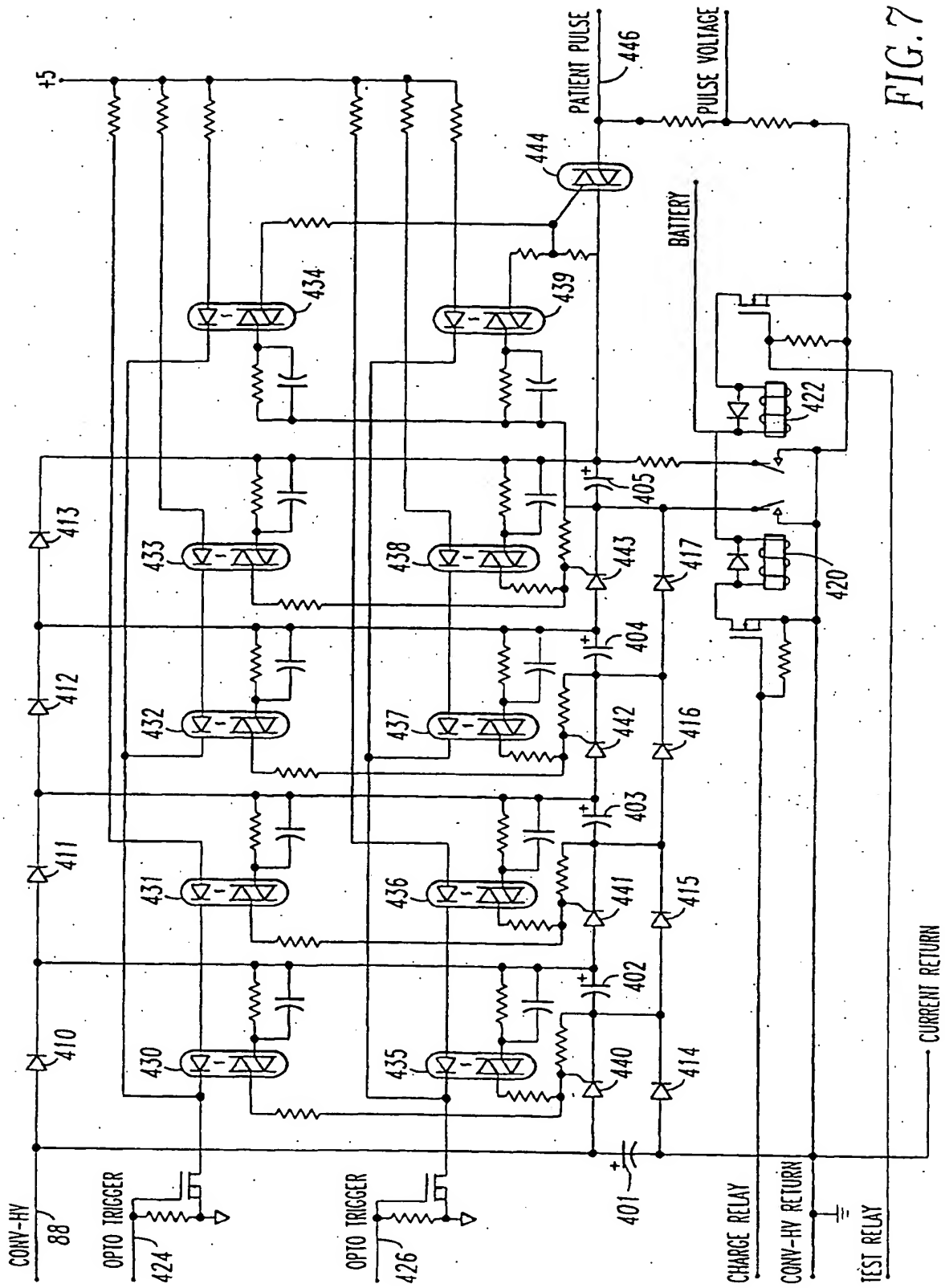


FIG. 7

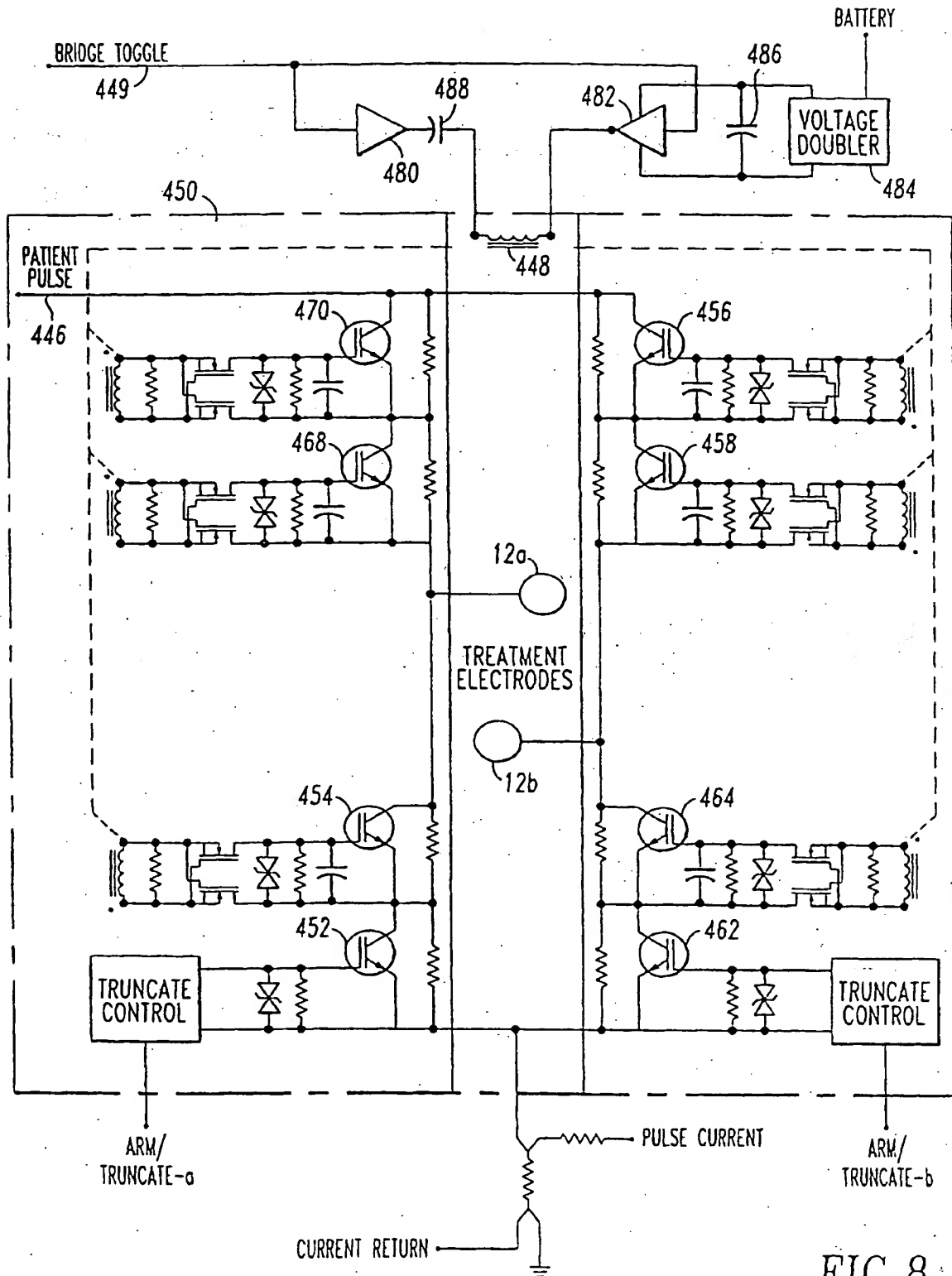


FIG. 8